

## Does Pop Culture Affect Our View of Alien Abduction?

by Kevin D. Randle

Kevin Randle's article about the influence of pop culture on the abduction phenomenon is certain to irk some readers. A few in the North Carolina MUFON conference, where he first presented it, seemed offended during his unapologetic assault on prevailing abduction theory. Not everyone was put off, though. Many of us found the perspective thought provoking and refreshingly free of bias.

Randle, a well-known UFO researcher and author, is currently pursuing a doctorate in psychology, in part because of his interest in and continually evolving perspective on the UFO phenomenon. Researchers must, he believes, look beyond the obvious and at-

tempt to understand the role of the mind and of societal influences on public perception and perspectives. As he stated in the introduction to his paper, "If we are going to argue for the reality of alien abduction, we must be fully aware of how pop culture might have influenced those claiming abduction."

Whatever your position and reaction and whether you accept Randle's theory in its entirety, I hope that you will weigh the message with an open mind—and spare the messenger.

This article is reprinted with the permission of the author and is condensed from his presentation at the MUFON 1996 International UFO Symposium. —Editor



According to psychological research, traditional folklore has produced a number of tales—fairy abductions, underworld initiation rites, etc.—closely matching the modern-day alien abduction scenario. Yet in today's technological world, speaking of fairies is less acceptable than speaking of aliens and spacecraft.

But an important issue should be considered by UFO researchers: Are tales of alien abduction based on reality? Or are they modern renditions of fairy tales influenced by American pop culture—science fiction books, movies, and so-called reality programs that present abductions as fact?

Examined closely, the seeds of alien abduction can be found among the science fiction stories as early as the turn of this century. All elements of alien abduction, in fact, existed before the first flying saucer report in 1947. The first abduction reports, for example, were made during the Great Airship sightings of 1897 [*Houston Sky*, No. 3, Feb./Mar. '95]. These reports varied from modern abduction stories in a number of ways. First, the pilots of these airships were usually identified as human scientists pursuing great scientific inventions. In only a few cases were nonhumans reported. Yet those few nonhuman cases seemed to

See Pop Culture, page 3

In the next (and final) issue of *Houston Sky*, look for two special features, several wrap-ups, a review of recommended UFO newsletters, and other items.

## Worth Repeating

*A Digest of Ideas from Researchers, Enthusiasts, Buffs, Kooks, Skeptics, Debunkers, and Others*

### Faeries and Wee People

"Before the media drew attention to Bonnybridge, many people had already encountered this phenomenon in its many shapes and forms for decades, possibly even hundreds of years. You only have to study the faery tales from ancient times and the numerous stories about being taken on journeys by the 'wee people' to realize that they may have been referring to what we would term nowadays as extraterrestrial experiences."

—Stuart Conway, "The Scottish Situation," in Joyce Murphy's *Beyond Boundaries*, Sep./Oct. '96, PO Box 250, Rainbow, TX 76077

*Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't.*

—Mark Twain

## This Issue

Pop Culture and Abductions  
Early Sci-Fi Movies  
UFO Birdhouses  
Commentary  
Spotlight  
UFO Notebook  
Worth Repeating  
Flash Back!  
Excuse Me?!  
Deep Throat  
UFO LINGO



## Worth Repeating

### Life on Mars

"Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock* and *The Third Wave*, said that if the evidence holds up, the life-on-Mars discovery 'is probably the most important event not just of this generation but of the millennium'... In the days following NASA's announcement, the agency's new life-on-Mars site on the Internet ([www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)) received about 600,000 visits a day: the first instantaneous world-wide spread of potentially revolutionary scientific data. 'Nothing like that has happened before,' Toffler said. He said the number of people who consulted NASA's web site in a day was 'probably greater than the total population of humans who for centuries had even heard of Copernicus.'" —Terence Monmaney, *Los Angeles Times*, 9/2/96

### Punctuationally Impaired?

(See "UFO Lingo," page 9.) "It's not my fault that people can't read a simple English sentence. The comma makes it clear that I am not saying Linda is Budd's fiancée. Only an illiterate idiot could construe it otherwise. BTW, you may cross post this letter if you like. Maybe it will help to clear things up for the punctuationally impaired." —Bob Shell, in an 8/30/96 email message to Rebecca Schatte, regarding an article in the British *UFO Magazine*, 9-10/96, p. 19

"The question is not so much whether there is life on Mars as whether it will continue to be possible to live on Earth."

—Anonymous

## ★ Flash Back

# An Air Force Colonel Recalls

by Bob Teets

*The following report, published in the Sept./Oct. 1996 edition of the West Virginia UFO Newsletter, is reprinted with the permission of editors Bob and Cathy Teets of Headline Books, Inc., PO Box 52, Terra Alta, WV 26764. —Editor*

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel John W. Weltman and two other colonels had just finished their day at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, and decided to fly to Washington, D.C., to log their required air time. It was the late fall of 1951 or the early spring of 1952.

A short time later, and with Col. Weltman at the controls of the Lockheed C-45 twin engine transport, the trio climbed to cruising altitude and headed north for what they thought would be a routine flight. Just over the North Carolina-Virginia border, however, and in complete darkness, the men witnessed something far from routine.

"This big glowing light appeared off our right wing," Col. Weltman recalls. "It's just hard to judge distance at night, but I'm guessing it was about a quarter mile off."

He couldn't make out a discernible shape because of the brightness, but the light seemed to settle in at altitude and match the C-45's air speed of approximately 145 knots.

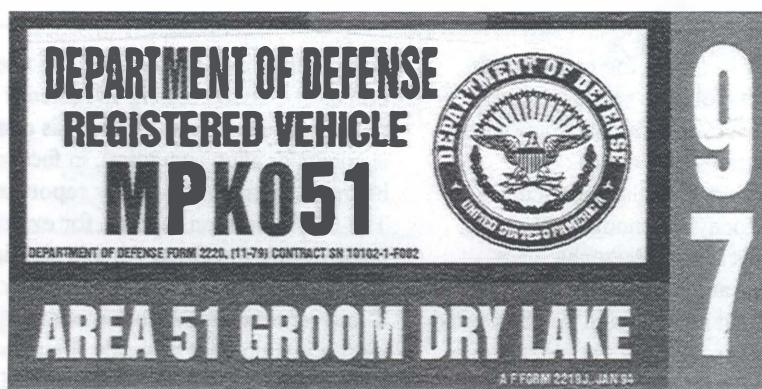
At that point, Col. Weltman and his companions had little option but to continue watching the phenomenon with a curious but wary eye. "It follows us like that for 30 or 40 seconds,"

he said, "and then—all of the sudden—it took off and went straight up" at a tremendous rate of speed and disappeared. "Oh, heavens, it was going at least 400 to 500 miles an hour," he remembers. At that, he recalls all of them unanimously exclaiming, "J—— Criminy!"

There were no jets in the vicinity, Col. Weltman says, and to this day, he doesn't know what it was. "At that time, UFOs were considered a joke, so we didn't report it. Many years later, though, we thought it must have been one of them."

Col. Weltman now lives at Alpine Lake near Terra Alta, West Virginia, and says he never saw such an event again. No other pilots he knows ever saw such a sight, he adds.

For comparison purposes, it may be noted that a short time later after Col. Weltman's encounter, one of the most famous of all UFO flaps occurred over Washington, D.C., in July 1952 (at which time crafts were reported to have encircled the city and penetrated the no-fly zone over the White House). It was also in 1952 that the "Flatwoods Monster" was spotted in Flatwoods, West Virginia, after an object (or what some called a meteorite) crashed on a nearby hilltop. ♦



Area 51 (Groom Lake) parking sticker, received August 1996

## Sun to Set on Houston Sky

*Houston Sky* will cease regular publication after its second year. The next issue will be the last. Any future (sporadic) issues will be publicized through the *MUFON Journal*, Arcturus Books, and the Internet.



foreshadow current UFO trends. However, by the time the UFO phenomenon exploded in July 1947, the Great Airship sightings were long forgotten, buried until renewed publicity in the 1960s. Whatever the relationship between the two waves of sightings, those at the end of the nineteenth century mirrored, almost perfectly, the events that began 50 years later.

Numerous UFO researchers have argued that the UFO phenomenon as we know it today has no precedent in history. Historian David Jacobs has claimed that the UFO phenomenon sprang into existence in 1947. Folklorist Thomas Bullard has suggested that the Betty and Barney Hill abduction had no cultural sources from which to draw. And Budd Hopkins has claimed that the beings reported by abductees are like no "traditional sci-fi gods or devils." In other words, each argues that UFOs and abductions must be real because there are no cultural sources from which the witnesses could have drawn. Without such sources, they believe, the witnesses and participants must be relating real events rather than stories based on folklore—even though the airship scare of the late nineteenth century alone demonstrated the fundamental inaccuracy of their assumptions.

It seems ridiculous to suggest that a phenomenon with no hard evidence of its existence other than witness testimony must be taken as real simply because no precedent exists. Yet many UFO researchers insist on asking how else could witnesses who have never communicated with or even know each other relate similar events.

The answer is, of course, that the cultural precedents demanded by Jacobs, Bullard, Hopkins, and others do exist. From the beginning of the twentieth century, pop culture has abounded with examples of alien beings and spacecraft that match to an astonishing degree the beings and craft reported today.

### Word of Mouth

At the turn of this century, information moved slowly, though it still had the widespread impact it does today. For example, though there were no radio stations to play the latest music, hired pianists and singers would perform it at music stores; musicians hearing it in one city would play it in the next; vaudeville acts would pick up the music; and player pianos would relay it to a variety of audiences. Before long, everyone in the country knew a song or was playing it at home—without radio, CDs, pop concerts, or MTV. Music circulated through the culture much more slowly—but no less completely.

This example demonstrates how information could pass from person to person without

modern technology. It also invalidates the claim that someone could not have heard a specific story if the story had no national forum. Information, whether a turn-of-the-century song or a modern-day abduction tale, can enter into a "collective consciousness." Simply put, information can spread great distances from just one person to another until a large number have been exposed to it.

In just such a way are urban legends passed along. Stories like "The Vanishing Hitchhiker" and "The Choking Doberman"—tales having no foundation in reality—move through society with what seems like a will of their own. And in each case, attempts by authorities to verify the story fail. Some tales survive even when no evidence for their reality is presented.

A well-known example involves that of Proctor and Gamble, which worked for years to stop an ugly urban legend pertaining to its old corporate logo. Rumor had it the logo was inspired by devil-worshipping Proctor and



Early (1875) P&G Logo

Gamble board members.

Yet even with the money Proctor and Gamble had at its disposal to buy advertising time with the national media to deny the rumor, the story of devil worship—a typical urban legend—continued to spread for years.

Clearly, the introduction of radio, television, movies, and other forms of mass media made the spread of information—including abduction stories—easier, and exposure to them more widespread.

### Early Influences

Movies based on stories by two early science fiction authors, Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, exemplify this widespread exposure. One of the earliest stories put to film was H. G. Wells' "First Men in the Moon," published in 1901. Since its film release in 1964, the movie has been translated into dozens of languages and shown worldwide, with dozens of versions broadcast on television. H. G. Wells' story "War of the Worlds" was first published before the turn of the century. As most readers are aware, Orson Welles' radio version of this alien invasion was broadcast nationally in 1938, and the ensuing panic was studied for years. More to the point, the broadcast brought "alien invasions" into the homes of average Americans before 1940. Those affected were not only the science fiction enthusiasts; many others saw the reports of the panic spread across the front pages of their newspapers.

Science fiction was an important part of pop culture even before 1938. Early sci-fi writer

See Pop Culture, page 4

## Worth Repeating

### Tunguska Revisited

"...Not until the late fifties would scientists visit Tunguska again. The prod would be Alexander Kazantsev, a Soviet engineer and an army colonel, who in 1946 wrote a short story in which he suggested that only a nuclear explosion could have caused the bizarre wreckage at Tunguska. And since humans obviously couldn't have managed such an explosion in 1908, it must have been caused by an exploding spaceship. Over the years, the story was reprinted several times in the Soviet Union, most successfully in 1958 in a popular book called *Guest From Space*. —Richard Stone, in "The Last Great Impact on Earth, *Discover* magazine, 9/96, p. 62

### Galactocentric View?

"...Alien stories that are claimed as true are no better. Why Earth would be such a fascinating place for UFOs to visit is left unexplained. I mean, really—Roswell, New Mexico? Inevitably, the UFO stories climax in the ultimate tribute to human ego. The aliens, it seems, have traveled umpteen billion miles so they can abduct us from our beds and have sex with us. I'm told that once you try a human, you never go back." —Nathan Myrthvoid, "So You're a Human Being—Isn't That Special?" *Time* magazine essay, p. 64, 8/96



## Deep-Throat

*Unsubstantiated-but-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine*

So much has happened—in so little time...well, in a few months.

Most recently, **DT** read via the Internet that Steven Greer, MD, of CSETI, had “abducted” a videotape while in Scotland of a huge, triangular craft filmed over Bonnybridge (see “WR,” p. 1). Reportedly, the video was flown back to the USA on a private jet. Sounds nefarious, but **DT** will cut the good doctor some slack on this one since the source (cybernews) is not so reliable. However, Steven *does* seem to have this extraordinary video and it was flown back on a private jet... But **DT** rather doubts he abducted it. Let’s hope instead that we see it soon on the new “Sightings” show. It would be a shame for this “excellent video” to be locked in a safe deposit box somewhere just for the CSETI members’ entertainment.

Speaking of “Sightings,” the show is now airing on the SciFi Channel Friday nights at 7 PM central time. Alas, **DT** does not have access to the SciFi channel. But **DT** has learned that “Sightings” may be planning a show based on recent Texas UFO sightings. They have videos in their possession of the New Braunfels UFO (seen on state news programs), the West Columbia UFO (shown at HUFON and on Houston’s ABC affiliate), and a video from East Texas.

Speaking of HUFON—the Houston UFO Network, not affiliated with MUFON—their “abductions chief investigator” spoke at a recent crystal kissing event in Austin, Texas, the Whole Life Expo (see “Spotlight,” page 6). **DT** regrets being unable to attend but did receive an audio cassette of the event. Apparently, according to speaker Derrel Sims, meteorites are now being implanted in abductees! You too can read about the unique implant test results on the World Wide Web at <http://www.accessnv.com/nids/sample.html>.

See **DT**, page 5

## Commentary

# UFO Progress?

by Tom Deuley

*Tom Deuley, MUFON International's corporate secretary, long-time UFO researcher, and avid ufology watcher, laments what he sees as a declining use of the scientific method—and of common sense—in the study of UFOs. —Editor*

**T**hough it seems the study of UFOs has come a long way over the past 10 years, I think we must reflect on the fact that it has not entirely *come along*, but in some cases been *whipped along* by a cadre of bandwagon riders trying to turn UFOs into either ego satisfaction or just plain cash business, with little regard for facts or science.

With the present movement of the public away from science, UFO investigators and researchers are faced with a very difficult future. If the whipping-along trend continues, ufology will become a mythical religion long before it ever has a chance of becoming a science. The complexion of ufology is gradually becoming more closely related to beliefs and whims of personal interpretation than to the collection and analysis of evidence. Those looking for the truth about UFOs need very seriously to regroup and at every opportunity insist on the application of common sense, if not science, in their critical judgments.

I would guess that the number of unusual UFO cases—and the numerous far-reaching explanations that accompany them—will continue to multiply. So too will the numbers of entrepreneurs, book writers, booksellers, novelty salesmen, pseudoscientists, ego maniacs, and groupies. The subject is crossing every boundary, invading many facets of a lot of

people’s lives. It is frequently presented as the force that will destroy American democracy (because of our government’s mishandling of matters). It is touted as a major threat to humanity. And it is an unrelenting force of wishful thinking, as both the savior *and* the destroyer. But UFOs have nothing to do with any of this.

UFOs are *reports*—some with credible multiple witnesses, some with simultaneous radar/visual sightings, some with reports of an entity associated with the object, some with hints of unusual contact—some with scant more than just a good report. Far too often, “stories” have been introduced, accepted, and left to grow with lives of their own, never being questioned or examined for substance or cohesion.

I would urge everyone who has any interest in UFOs to do these things as you ponder the phenomenon:

- ◆ Ask the hard questions.
- ◆ Don’t spread unfounded stories.
- ◆ Squelch the baloney as you find it.
- ◆ Insist on checkable facts.
- ◆ Never accept an unnamed source as expert.
- ◆ Believe the axiom that proves itself daily in ufology: if it seems too good to be true, then it probably isn’t true.
- ◆ Dedicate yourself to the pursuit of facts and truth, and you can’t go wrong. ◆

### Pop Culture, from page 3

Hugo Grensback introduced it to American society in the 1920s in hopes of sugarcoating science so that the young would become interested in it. His efforts were successful to a large degree—Frederick Pohl, a contemporary science fiction writer of the first order, once commented that in 1945, when the first atomic bomb was detonated, there were 2,000 scientists who comprehended the situation... *and maybe 500,000 science fiction readers*. Science fiction was teaching Americans about science—and it had reached the American public.

By the 1930s and 40s, many science fiction magazines were being published. Their covers featured full-color, eye-catching art. Their themes often included monsters, scientists as all-American heroes, and scantily clothed women in peril. These were the pulp magazines

of the time, filled with action and excitement. And each month, new editions and new covers appeared on the newsstands. One 1935 magazine cover from *Astounding Stories* predicted many elements of the abduction phenomenon of 50 years later. It depicts two alien beings with no hair, no nose, a slitlike mouth, and large eyes. One of the strange creatures is looking through a door at a woman on an examination table. Her eyes are closed, and though covered by a sheet, a convention of the time, she is clearly naked. In the foreground, another creature is restraining a man who is trying to rescue the woman. Although the alien beings have pupils in the large whites of their eyes, the similarity of other elements to modern abductions is striking.

To suggest that abductees of today could not

See *Pop Culture*, page 5



## Pop Culture, from page 4

have seen the cover of a science fiction magazine published 60 years earlier misses the point—that alien abduction is not a concept developed recently but one introduced to the American public long before anyone had heard of flying saucers and alien abductions.

### “B” Movies of the ’50s and ’60s

Aside from the Great Airship mystery, the science fiction magazines of the 1920s and 30s, and pre-1940 pop culture, all the typical elements of today’s UFO sightings and abduction reports are abundant in the science fiction movies of the 1950s and 60s. Dozens of examples can be found of invading aliens from dying planets abducting humans for reproductive purposes and implanting small devices into them for a variety of reasons.

In the 1956 release of “Not of This Earth,” the alien wears dark glasses to cover his eyes and collects human blood in an aluminum briefcase. Although he is not collecting genetic material, as suggested by today’s abductees, he is required to send humans to his home world, where a plague is destroying the population. The alien’s purpose clearly is to gather new genetic material.

“The Invaders” (1960s) also portrays beings from a dying world, their goal being to take over Earth and make it their own. The 1983 made-for-TV miniseries “V” features an invading race intent on stealing Earth’s resources. Other films, such as “This Island Earth” (1955), feature alien scientists eventually abducting Earth scientists to enlist their help in defeating enemies. “The 27th Day,” made in 1957, features aliens who bestowed on several humans the power to destroy all human life on Earth so that they (the aliens) could take over.

Each of these films also suggested human abduction somewhere in the storyline. “The 27th Day” begins with five people abducted onto an alien spaceship, where time slows almost to a standstill. The abductees are returned quickly after being assigned their mission and the weapons to wipe out the human race. In the 1954 “Killers from Space,” a scientist working on atomic energy is abducted from his jet as it crashed. The scientist, played by Peter Graves, returns to

the base confused, missing time, and bearing a huge scar on his chest. Another striking element in the film is the aliens’ huge eyes. Though not the jet black orbs of modern abduction tales, these eyes haunt the scientist as he struggles to remember what happened, which he does only when regressed with the help of sodium amytal.

In “Earth Versus the Flying Saucers” (1956), an army general meets the aliens on their ship, and time stands still. Also featured is the abduction of an army general, whose mind is probed and his thoughts removed for storage in an “infinitely indexed memory bank.” In the 1957 movie “Invasion of the Saucermen,” small aliens are featured, some with large heads, pointed chins, and huge eyes. These aliens also have a pronounced network of blood vessels and large, pointed ears.

Even the so-called implants now claimed by some as “proof” of alien abduction were occasionally featured. Alien implants delivered by “flying flapjacks” and rendering their recipients part of the invading force are featured in “It Conquered the World” (1956). Tiny probes pushed into the back of the neck to monitor their recipients were

seen as early as 1953 in “Invaders from Mars.”

From the examples presented, it is clear that *all* the elements of the abduction phenomenon were used in dozens of early science fiction movies—and played time and again on late-night television and cable TV. There is no denying that this element of pop culture—science fiction—has influenced our concept of aliens and their motivations, and, inevitably, of modern alien abduction stories.

### “Accidental” Exposure

Even for those who insist that they did not watch early sci-fi movies or late-night television, there were other arenas for exposure.

While a specific abductee might have avoided films depicting flying saucers and aliens, he or she would have attended other movies and seen previews. *Everyone* did, whether on a Friday night date or at the kids’ Saturday afternoon matinee. One of the many features of theater presentations was the preview of coming attractions. So again, those who might not have seen science fiction movies could have seen their previews.

See Pop Culture, page 7

## Deep Throat, from page 4

DT did catch Derrel and California podiatrist Roger K. Leir, DPM, on the recent radio broadcast “The UFO Report.” By the way, *crux* does not rhyme with *kooks*, except maybe at the University of Pizza (see Derrel’s web site). Just where is the “University of Pizza,” anyway? Near the College of Hamburgerology, perhaps?

Across the pond, BUFORA’s Director of Investigations Philip Mantle has now—ahem—stepped down officially. DT was lucky enough to see a “Dear Colleague” letter circulated by Philip. (Philip is an extremely cordial guy, but DT does not actually think of him as “a colleague.”) The ex-director’s reason for stepping down is that he wants to “spend more time with his family.” Thank goodness it’s *not* because he is having to defend himself for selling copyrighted photos (someone else’s copyright) to newspapers in the UK, or because of his ambiguous involvement with Ray-the-SCAM Santilli.

Read it here first! Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dan McGovern, WWII military photographer, recently returned from England, where he participated in a documentary being made about the alien autopsy (a.k.a. SCAM). McGovern took his own Filmo 70 camera to record a recreation of the notorious autopsy. DT hopes the recreations by Four Winds Productions, which is making the documentary, are better than those already filmed in Argentina (good but not convincing) and in Germany (not even close). No word yet on whether the Four Winds production will be available in the US. Currently, it is being prepared for the UK’s Discovery Channel (different from the Discovery Channel here). The American public will probably see it a month or two after it appears in the UK.

Some of Ray’s film was tested recently at the University of Pisa (not to be confused with

See DT, page 6

*In 1975, I attended a UFO conference in Fort Smith, Arkansas. A man [in the audience] claimed to have been abducted from his car at a railroad crossing. Under hypnosis arranged by conference organizer Bill Pitts, the man told of being subjected to a medical examination. While lying on the table surrounded by aliens, he could see a huge screen displaying his internal organs, including his beating heart. As soon as I heard his story, I recognized it as a scene right out of the 1954 movie “Killers from Space.”*

—Kevin Randle



*Deep Throat*, from page 5 the University of Pizza, mentioned above); however, it had no alien image on it, could not be conclusively tied to the SCAM footage—and DT couldn't really understand the test results, anyway.

Colin Andrews recently received a video of a crop circle forming. Colin vowed to have the video authenticated—but not, of course, before showing it at several pricey conferences. The video is said to look dubious, but the reasons behind that are w-a-y too complicated and long to explain here. Some researchers in the UK and Germany think the video could be the work of Jim Schnabel ("Round in Circles" and "Dark White") and admitted circle maker Robert Irving. Even Colin has decided the video is probably a hoax. The clues that led him to his conclusion are intriguing, just the kind of game these circle makers like to play. Games and hoaxes are such an unfortunate, time-consuming, expensive, and nasty by-product of anomaly research, DT thinks.

DT doesn't get out much these days (though this may change when *Houston Sky* ceases production with the next issue.) DT missed the MUFON Symposium back in July, but not the gossip. What is this world coming to? CSICOP Chief Debunker and *Skeptics UFO Newsletter* editor Philip Klass was seen in the wee morning hours with none other than Jim Moseley of *Saucer Smear* fame. No telling what we'll hear next, with these two guys putting their heads together. Just so they don't butt heads!

Don Ecker of *UFO Magazine* (congratulations on their 10th anniversary issue) has given up his excellent radio program, "UFOs Tonight," formerly broadcast on the Cable Radio Network, and is now looking for another outlet. Cable Radio Network has replaced the program with "The UFO Report," hosted by Joe Dale. The good Joe has a way to go, but at least the program is about UFOs. You can hear "The UFO Report" via satellite (the big kind, not those baby dishes) or your cable

See DT, page 9

## Spotlight on Derrel Sims

In His Own Words

*The following is a partial, verbatim, unedited transcript from "Evidence of Alien Abduction," an hour-long talk by Derrel Sims, "chief investigator for the Houston UFO Network" (not affiliated with MUFON) and self-proclaimed "Alien Hunter." For an audio cassette of Derrel's complete September, 15, 1996 Whole Life Expo (Austin, Texas) presentation, contact Alpha Omega Cassette Enterprises, 915 Kewen Dr., San Marino, CA 91108.*

*The editor suggests that finding the evidence alluded to in the title of the presentation may be like finding the proverbial needle in the (alleged) haystack. [Italics and comments in brackets are all mine.] —Editor*

"What we have today for you are a set of slides of alleged human alien activity in which humans have been involved inadvertently by the alleged alien presence. In other words, abductions have occurred. When you get into the science and the medical end of this, you don't use those type terms. To ufologists, you say abductions and implants and things like that, but when you get into the science end of it, you use terms like "anomalous objects." [laughter] You cover your rear end. Very carefully....

"So my colleague, Dr. Roger Leir, a podiatric surgeon [DPM, not MD] in Los Angeles, was presenting this weekend with Budd Hopkins and Linda Moulton Howe and a few other big stars on the UFO circuit, and he said, 'I got a standing ovation.' He told me this last night... He said, 'I read our information, the latest scientific information from two major labs.' [A previously named lab is Warren Laboratories in Houston, which manufactures herbal products; I was told by phone (10/25) that they "do not do analyses." ] These are labs that would prefer not to be known because if they had any idea the incredible high-tech research they just finished and on what, it could ruin them,' he says, 'because this stuff doesn't exist.' And what they found was incredible. And bizarre. And it gets worse. [laughing] So we are delighted to say the least....

"We kept our information private and quiet for several reasons. One is because the science groups [sic] involved—the National Institute for Discovery Science—will not permit us to divulge anything until it comes out with a scientific explanation, and we are delighted to do that and have agreed to it. [Group or groups? The NIDS (singular) was recently set up by Robert Bigelow, who also recently withdrew his support of the MUFON-CUFOS-FUFOR Coalition; the NIDS is headed by purported Aviary member and sometime-ufologist John Alexander.] We have taken on enormous heat for that—[deep, exaggerated voice]—'You're hiding things—you're a government agent—you're doing all this weird stuff—you're not telling anybody the big secrets.' Well, the secret's out. ... And it's done properly.... And it is met with scientific scrutiny and clarity so much to the point that several professors from around the world have come on board, from the University of Pisa [Pizza?—see "Deep Throat," p. 5], the Netherlands, all over the United States, and they are delighted to help us ...

"Do you know why? Because we didn't treat our evidence like ufologists usually do. We treated this in the finest medical and scientific way possible.

And because of that, it's earned us a great deal of credibility with these people, and we are delighted because if, in fact, UFO evidence—and this appears to be some of the first stuff that's ever literally, surgically, been removed from alleged abductees with the specific purpose and intent of recovering an alleged alien artifact....

"And you have to understand these are double-blind tests—they don't even know what they're looking at. [Well, not exactly. Double-blind and single-blind procedures involve experimenters, test groups, and control groups, none of whom knows which groups the subjects are in. In this case, Derrel's objects are the test group, but there is no control group.] These are just metal things sent in, and 'please analyze them, and here's all your money.' And so that's all they know. And this is wonderful for a lot of reasons, as you shall soon see. They were so impressed with the objects, they felt like it [sic] should be sent to another high-tech lab for them to look at it, so these science group [sic] is paying for a bunch more work. This is all that was generated from the second one. The first one had to do with structure of the objects—the second analysis had to do with the elements....

"And then while all that was going on—I like to do things very quickly... So I sent four objects for isotopic testing. Does anybody have any idea what that is? Basically, if you want to determine if something is on-world or off-world—outer space or here—you do certain tests, and the way you do that is by an isotopic test. And what that means is, for instance, as an example, if you take a piece of iron that you found here on this planet and you tested it, and let's say it had an isotopic range of ferrous and ferric iron, 25 and 26, as an example. That will be consistent anywhere in the world you find it. If you find, then, ferrous iron and ferric iron from a meteorite, for example, if that were the case, if it's not from here, it will show a different isotopic ratio. It will be different. Out of the four objects I sent (these are not implants, this is other physical evidence and other abduction cases we have), two of the four show off-world and on-world material. Both. And radically so. So this was a rather interesting and rather amazing find for us. One of them alleges to be an artifact from the Roswell crash.

"This is not the stuff you've been hearing on Art Bell or other individual stuff. Like I say, most of our stuff is kept very private until we're ready to come forward with it. They were somewhat surprised when

See Spotlight, page 7



### Spotlight, from page 6

they did the test on this—of course, naturally, ‘Where did you get it?’ Questions like that always come up, you know. ‘How did you get something like that?’ Of course, they don’t know what they’re looking at. We don’t want them to know. So we’re very excited about all of that....

“Now the interesting thing about that is, there’s no signs of inflammation concerning the biological covering around these so-called objects... This is significant because *anytime* the body gets a foreign object in it, a splinter... the body gets a chronic or inflammatory response. The body will attack it, seal it off, whatever. This was not done in any of these cases. Out of six surgeries, we have not had one case that happened (that was UFO related). There is no signs of inflammation, regardless of what the object was. *[It’s no surprise, medically speaking, that years after a splinter or tiny metallic object punctures the skin and enters the body, the inflammation has become inactive (not chronic or acute), and any scar has disappeared.]* The biological covering around the metal objects is so anomalous that the doctor with a number 15 scalpel cannot even cut through the membrane....

“We also found an object after the mass abduction of eight of *our people* in Houston, Texas. An object fell out of a lady’s eye. It looks like a little tiny egg. (I brought it with me.)... This was apparently the casing or the housing for whatever went inside it. We suspect the possibility may have been that there was a biological camera attached to this thing.... But we did have it analyzed just with a cursory exam with an electron microprobe at the University of Houston in the Superconductivity Center, and found these elements. I understand, I am told, and I don’t know this to be true, but those eight elements do not show up in a natural-occurring state together *[That is, they are probably manmade.]*, and they were

never manufactured in a natural-occurring state together. *[How could this be known?]* So, there’s a lot more tests that’s going to have to be done on this thing.... *[But when? It’s already been three and a half years (April 20, 1993) since the “Technical Analysis Report” based on this object’s analysis was released. Better question: Why? The report states that the specimen underwent a “qualitative elemental analysis on April 14, 1992 [sic], at the Superconductivity Laboratory, University of Houston, using an electron microprobe,” and it concludes that the specimen is nonbiological and “most likely” a polymer—in other words, plastic.]*

“This lady [on video] has come in with another gentleman... to have objects removed that they believe may be alien related. The lady is going through hypnotic anesthesia. All during the time of the surgery I’ve got her in hypnotic anesthesia and I’m doing healing techniques with her while she’s in surgery. We did this with one patient and nothing with the other patient. Just a normal surgery with him. Took him two weeks to heal—she walked out on her own two feet, with no postop medication. This was Saturday.... Monday morning she was at work and took out her own stitches. I could not believe that. We must be doing something right... [laughing]

“I’d really like to cut to the chase because *I don’t want to give you a bunch of hype here*, I’d just like to give you *solid information*, as much as we may.... What are the implants for? We don’t know... All we know is they’re anomalous objects found in the most unusual circumstances.... *We have very strict scientific and medical protocols....* We’re the Fund for Interactive Research and Space Technology (FIRST). This is two surgeons and myself. I’m a hypnotic anesthesiologist by trade, and all our work is done free... *[For the record, Derrel is not a medical professional—not even close. Nor is he a*

*See Spotlight, page 10*

### Pop Culture, from page 5

How many families made it an outing to attend the drive-in theater on a Friday or Saturday night? In the ‘50s, it didn’t matter so much *which* film was showing but that the family did something together. Many of the drive-in theaters showed cheaply made, black-and-white ‘B’ movies, made to support the main attraction. Many of these depicted monsters from outer space, and as noted earlier, many included elements of today’s abduction phenomenon.

Often at those Friday night movies or Saturday matinees, one chapter of a movie serial was shown before a feature. These serials featured everything from Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers to Superman and tales of the Lost Continent of Atlantis. Robots, spaceships, and evil aliens were the norm—as were trips through the solar system to faraway planets. Seeing a serial’s “next exciting chapter” was often the main reason for attending a movie.

Again, to insist on *no* exposure to a particu-

lar aspect of pop culture is to suggest some-one who never left the house, never read a paper or magazine, and never turned on the radio or television.

### Actual Reports

In more recent times, the media’s influence is more obvious still. In October 1975, for example, NBC broadcast the now-famous story of Barney and Betty Hill to a national audience. If nothing else, the broadcast focused the minds of so many viewers on the alien abduction.

After that, millions of people knew about the big-eyed aliens who were smaller than humans.

Before the 1966 release of *The Interrupted Journey*, John Fuller’s book about the Hills (in 1968, serialized in *Look* magazine), no public discussion had taken place in this country about alien abduction. The Antonio Villas-Boas case from Brazil, known to few at that time even inside the UFO community, was not known to Betty Hill. Yet she told a tale of alien abduction quite similar to that related by Villas-Boas. The

*See Pop Culture, page 8*

## Worth Repeating

### Mumbo-Jumbo Science

“Then ask yourself, why is it that, on the one hand, cereologists and ufologists seem to court scientific respectability, but on the other, they refuse to abide by its findings (which include replicable results)? Is every scientist in the world in on the conspiracy?” I don’t think so. I think most of them prefer not to touch us with a 10-foot pole because, frankly, most of us are crackpots.... In effect, ufology has mortgaged its future on a present composed largely of unsubstantiated rumor and innuendo based on little or no documented evidence whatsoever, bolstered by a willingness to see a vast conspiracy everywhere. After all, once the head of the United Nations has been repeatedly abducted, what, really, is left?” —Dennis Stacy, a.k.a. the San Antonio Susquatch (and *MUFON Journal* editor), 9/1/96

### Still More Tabloidology

“... Without regard to scientific research, ethics, scruples of any kind, they have tapped into the tabloid mentality and are making lots of money off of extremely dubious material. As long as there are people who want to be titillated and entertained and who are unable to understand the difference between that and science, the Santilli’s of the world will prevail.” —Richard Hall, in “Reality Check, *UFO* magazine, 9-10/96, p. 16

### Does He Mean Life?

“I’ve been incredibly lucky... My wife and I are co-producing a film based on my novel *Contact*... I have lots of projects in the works, and I am pursuing scientific questions about organic matter in outer space. —Carl Sagan, “Parade,” 10/20/96



## Worth Repeating

### Ancient Memories

"The more I studied these reports, whose characteristics were surprisingly consistent across cultural barriers, the more they reminded me of the medieval stories preserved in many European chronicles...

"The folklore of every culture, it turned out, had a rich reservoir of stories about humanoid beings that flew in the sky, used devices that seemed in advance of the technology of the time, and said strangely beautiful, although absurd, things to those with whom they came in contact. These beings abducted humans, and their victims uniformly reported an alteration of the sense of time when they were in the beings' company.

"When *Passport to Magonia* proposed [in 1969] that reports of flying saucers were, among other things, 'folklore in the making' and must be studied as such, it met with a certain measure of skepticism among ufologists. Since it was unfashionable to mention UFO landings, any serious study of the parallel between their occupants and the elves of old was utterly taboo. Slowly, however, new waves of sightings came, bringing with them an endless supply of occupant stories that could no longer be denied. The awareness of the continuity between the ancient and the modern reports became increasingly clear. The UFO phenomenon forces us to look at human history in a new light." — Jacques Vallee, in the preface to *Passport to Magonia*, 1993 edition

### Pop Culture, from page 7

question that plagued many researchers, including Bullard, was where her story had come from—if not from a real experience. Bullard, who began his massive study (1982) of the abduction phenomenon with the Hill case, felt the Hills did not have the knowledge to have concocted their nightmare of alien abduction.

One key to the mystery of where the information could have come from is found in Donald Keyhoe's 1955 report-filled book *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. Keyhoe cited a dozen or so cases involving aliens, including the case of a pilot in Hawaii who claimed, "I actually saw him," referring to the creature from the craft. Keyhoe seemed to suggest that the story, while extreme for the time, had an undercurrent of authenticity. More importantly, however, Keyhoe wrote of UFO reports from Venezuela that could have contributed to Betty Hill's stories. He told of two men, for example, who had sighted a bright light on a nearby road. Hovering over the ground was a round craft glowing brilliantly on the underside. According to Keyhoe's report, four little beings exited the craft and tried to drag one witness to it—a typical abduction that failed. Keyhoe mentioned another man found unconscious after being attacked by "a hairy dwarf." In still another report, a man was "paralyzed by a bright light" after he saw six hairy dwarves near a saucer. Obviously, small beings associated with flying saucers were already documented in the UFO literature by 1955.

Within days of her sighting in 1961, Betty Hill wrote to Keyhoe, saying, "At this time, we are searching for any clue that might be helpful to my husband in recalling whatever it was he saw that caused him to panic. His mind has completely blacked out at this point. Every attempt to recall leaves him very frightened." Barney Hill's description of "wraparound eyes" was very rare in science fiction films to that point. However, they did appear in a 1964 episode of the TV series "The Outer Limits" entitled "The Bellerio Shield." Anyone familiar with Barney's sketch in *The Interrupted Journey* and the one drawn by artist David Baker will experience *deja vu* seeing this episode. The resemblance is heightened by the absence of ears, hair, and nose on both aliens. Could this have been only by chance? Consider this: Barney first described and drew the wraparound eyes during a hypnosis

session that occurred on February 22, 1964. "The Bellerio Shield" was first broadcast on February 10, 1964—just 12 days earlier.

So while all the elements of the Hill abduction—from Keyhoe's hairy dwarves attempting to kidnap humans to aliens experimenting on humans—were introduced into pop culture before 1961 and flourished afterward in the media, an exact match is not necessary to call their authenticity into question. The differences are easily explained by the way folklore evolves and is spread. As Bullard himself explains: As a story is told, each teller adds and subtracts elements so that the story fits his or her personality.

There is no denying that pop culture could have supplied all the elements for the Hill story. Betty Hill may simply have pulled them together into a single, neat package.

### Looking Beyond

Long before the first alien abduction report appeared, the phenomenon was well established, fueled by speculation from science fiction and the popular press. All the familiar elements were reported—on the radio, on tele-vision, in movies, and in books—and were well publicized. The evidence supporting this claim is overwhelming. To be fair, however, researchers must look beyond these similarities to determine the extent to which pop culture has influenced the abduction phenomenon. If we as ufologists are not objective and well informed, then we will be unable to convince others of the existence of such a phenomenon, much less of its reality. (Kevin Randle can be contacted by email at [KRandle993@aol.com](mailto:KRandle993@aol.com).)

### Additional Reading

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Vallee, Jacques. *Passport to Magonia*, 1993 (first published in 1969). ♦

### Excuse Me?!

"When sizing up former "Entertainment Tonight" host John Tesh, 'tall' and 'goofy-looking' come to mind, but 'alien'? Members of the National Anti-Tesh Action society firmly believe it. They staged a protest outside a Tesh New Age concert in Detroit last weekend, distributing fliers that said Tesh is really an 'interplanetary mole' for an alien army called Echelon."

—Newsmakers, *Houston Chronicle*, June 1996



## UFO LINGO

### The Bob Shell Comma Affair

Bob Shell, of *Shutterbug* magazine and Santilli SCAM fame, is the apparent culprit (though he won't admit it) responsible for the recent rumor that Budd Hopkins was engaged to Linda Cortile. And according to Bob, the CompuServe readers who misinterpreted him are "people who cannot read simple English sentences."

Well, Bob—not really. They are just confused over your ambiguous punctuation.

The main issue is not, as you claim, the use of serial commas (those separating items in a list), but commas (and sometimes dashes or parentheses) used with appositives. An *appositive* is a word (or a phrase or clause) that further identifies its antecedent (the word that comes before it).

In the example *Budd's brother Jim* (assuming that Budd has two brothers), *Jim* is the appositive and further identifies *brother*, the antecedent. In this case, when the appositive is restrictive (that is, is needed to distinguish between other brothers), a comma is *not* used.

However, in the example *Budd's fiancée, Carol*—in which *Carol* adds information but is not needed to distinguish between one of several fiancées, the comma *is* used. Got all that?

Here are some more examples:

**Correct:** I had lunch with Budd Hopkins and his fiancée, Carol.  
*Presumably, he has only one fiancée. A comma is required.*

**Correct:** The people at lunch were Budd Hopkins, his fiancée, and two others.  
*Four people were in the Hopkins party—no appositive provided.*

**Correct but ambiguous:** The people at lunch were Budd Hopkins, his fiancée, Carol, and two others.

*Here, it's unclear whether Budd went with three or four people—unless you happen to know that Carol is his fiancée. However, because the word Carol is punctuated as an appositive, most people will identify Carol as Budd's fiancée.*

**Bob's sentence, also ambiguous:** "The people at lunch were Budd Hopkins, his fiancée, Linda Cortile, the Mantles, and Philip's literary agent."

*If you don't know Budd's fiancée's name, there is no way to tell how many people were in the party, just as in the previous example. And there is certainly no way to know that Linda Cortile is not Budd's fiancée.*

Technically, Bob's sentence is correct. Grammatically and semantically, however, it is hopelessly ambiguous. The word fiancée requires that its appositive be set off by commas. But in Bob's case, he omitted the appositive—Carol's name—because he couldn't remember it. Thus grammatically, the reader is led to believe that Linda Cortile is Budd's fiancée. And that is just what several readers did.

What Bob doesn't realize—or won't admit—is that *all* writers and editors occasionally make mistakes and write ambiguous sentences. Most simply admit their mistake, correct it, apologize if necessary, and move on. They usually don't call their readers illiterate.

By the way, Bob, *fiance* is masculine, *fiancée* is feminine, and the accents are optional in English. Single quotation marks are not used in place of double ones. And while I'm at it—the British place commas and periods (full stops) *outside* double quotation marks; Americans place them *inside*. In your rush to defend your ambiguity, you probably just overlooked these errors. . . .

P.S. Congratulations to Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey, who married on August 17, 1996. —Editor

"...here and there a touch of good grammar for picturesqueness." —Mark Twain

**OOPS!** In the last issue, I identified the editor of the Florida newsletter *National UFO News* (NUFON) as Art Hufford. Bland Pugh, the actual editor, emailed to say that while Art is a MUFON State Section Director for two Florida counties, he is not involved with the newsletter. Thanks, Bland, for setting the record straight! —Editor

## Worth Repeating

### Unidentified IFO?

"The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating an American Airlines pilot's report that a missile zoomed by his 757 as it flew near NASA and Navy facilities in Virginia on its way to Boston.

"NTSB spokesman Peter Goetz confirmed that the pilot reported 'a missile off the right wing' to American and that the NTSB had assigned an investigator to what he called a 'preliminary' investigation.' The FAA is conducting its own investigation, officials said.

"The reported incident occurred at 1:45 PM., Aug. 29, as Flight 1170 flew over Wallops Island, Va. —*Newsday*, *Houston Chronicle*, 10/96

### Deep Throat, from page 6

system (if it carries the signal). DT hopes Don (and his sidekick Dwight Schultz) find their outlet soon. The pickings are slim for UFO news on the radio.

Speaking of radio, as DT previously reported, Art Bell has received some items lovingly referred to as "Art's Parts," which allegedly came from the Roswell crash. DT remains skeptical, though open. Linda Moulton Howe is working with a scientist from Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, who supposedly is performing various tests on the objects; for example, the objects reportedly were charged with 500,000 volts of electricity and levitated as a result. (DT would levitate, too, if charged with 500,000 volts!) Hopefully, test results will be available by the time the next—and last—*Houston Sky* comes out (which should be sometime before the end of the millennium). DT has learned the hard way *not* to count chickens (electrocuted or otherwise) before they hatch... or test results... or newsletters. ♦



## Worth Repeating

**Don't Let the Pleiadeans Get You!**  
"October can be eerie, all right. Down on Earth, the chill winds blow and the fall colors vanish, replaced by stark, barren branches. In the sky, too, it's a perfectly spooky month—the ideal backdrop for the autumn night when the most people roam beneath the stars: Halloween...."

"But the celestial object most intimately connected with devils and witches waits until mid-month to rise at nightfall, so that by Halloween it's well up when darkness comes. It's the Pleiades...."

Even without Halloween, other cultures attached significance to the Pleiades. The Brahmins of ancient India.... in Greek legend.... the Book of Job.... the Aztecs.... the Celts....

"Now is your chance to get closer to the power behind the goblins and mischief of October's final night. The Pleiades are striking to the unaided eye, but they become stunning through binoculars. Instantly, the six to 11 naked-eye stars grow to hundreds of sapphire jewels." —*Discover* magazine, "Fright Night," 10/96, p. 114.

*"Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."*

—Albert Einstein

## UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

### Part 1 of 2

In the past, I have reviewed work by people specifically involved with UFO-inspired propulsion systems. The ideas presented below, while developed by scientists not engaged in UFO research, nevertheless could possibly give us some insight into propulsion techniques used by UFOs. Breakthrough propulsion researchers are currently reviewing applications of zero point energy (ZPE) as a means of achieving anti-gravity and artificial gravity propulsion.

Gravity, by definition, is the "attractive" force that every mass in the universe exerts on every other mass in the universe. This is a different force than electromagnetism, which is bipolar; that is, it attracts and repels. Therefore, the term "anti-gravity" means gravity repulsion or gravity shielding. Artificial gravity, in theory, is a manufactured form of gravity that could be created and warped into fields around an aircraft, spacecraft, or some other transport system. If achieved, artificial gravity would be an excellent means of propulsion, producing rapid acceleration without stress to a vehicle or its occupants.

Zero point energy, in the language of modern quantum physics, is the kinetic energy (body in motion) that remains in a substance or physical system at the temperature of absolute zero (-273.15 degrees Celsius), where no thermal agitation effects remain. In other words, no matter how low the temperature, the physical system or object will continue to fluctuate about an equilibrium position and to emit radiation.

### Spotlight, from page 7

*licensed hypnotherapist, which requires a minimum of a master's degree, 2,000 supervised hours, and a licensing exam. Eligibility for Texas certification in clinical hypnotherapy occurs after licensing. I am interested in how Derrel can purport to practice "hypnotic anesthesiology" in a medical setting, or otherwise.] "I'm called a proactive investigator [a.k.a. "The Alien Hunter"]. Proactive means if he's out there, I'll find him. [Derrel once advertised a 900 phone number, no longer listed: 1-900-8-ALIENS.] If he's not out there, I'll find that, too. But I'm not going to sit around for another couple of hundred years waiting for these guys, whoever they are, to do the things they're doing, without any observation. If they can be observed and there's any scientific way to do that, I intend to have that done. And I'm very favorable of that....*

*"What [it] boils down to is... This is done in a double-blind situation, so they don't know what*

Theoretical and experimental physicist Harold E. Puthoff, PhD, in a video of his March 13, 1996, lecture titled "The Sea of Quantum Energy in Which We Live," discusses his research work with ZPE physics. According to Dr. Puthoff, ZPE is electromagnetic and conforms to all laws of physics. All particles have quantum jiggle, or vacuum fluctuations, that equate to approximately one half photon in width for any given mode. This quantum energy is in the space that surrounds us, including outer space.

The force of inertia, according to Dr. Puthoff, is an indication that ZPE energy exists. Inertia is the result of zero point vacuum fluctuations that create a force when one moves. In other words, a wall of vacuum fluctuations resists the acceleration of movement. Dr. Puthoff also commented that in mass modification studies, the inertial mass of a body can be altered by making changes in the vacuum surrounding the body.

One unique space travel idea applying these changes is called "hyperspace surfing." This technique involves warping the ZPE vacuum surrounding a spaceship. Warping causes space to expand behind the ship and contract in front, thereby creating an effect similar to a surfboard propelled by the rolling ocean surf. If engineers can turn this energy-filled vacuum into a means of propulsion, then it is conceivable that reduced-time interstellar travel will be a reality in the next century.

*Next issue: Additional anti-gravity theories and experiments. ♦*

they're doing. They're just analyzing the data. Well, basically, what they show up here in the reports and in the references are... what you have here is a meteorite, an unusual form of meteor. [Well, sort of... A meteorite is a meteor that reaches the surface of the earth without being completely vaporized.] And after that's all done, then they tell them, 'But this was surgically removed from someone.' 'Oh, well, then let us offer another possible opinion.' [laughing] Because that can't work, you see. [It] won't work because they don't know the whole clinical picture, which is that we know the biology, and that kills that second possible opinion. The biology doesn't suggest it at all. So we had this problem. How did meteorites get inside two different people? And then come up with 11 different elements on them? And the meteorites are different values in terms of hardness on the Mohs test of hardness. How do we do that? We're not going to leave a scar. 'I guess they're out watching

*See Spotlight, page 11*

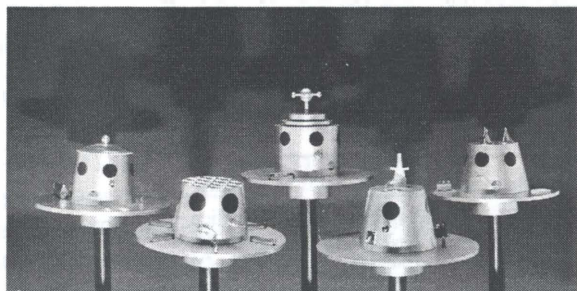


## One-of-a-Kind UFO Birdhouses

by Gayle Nesom

Looking for the perfect Christmas present for a UFO friend? Check out these elegant one-of-a-kind UFO birdhouses, hand crafted by artist Randy Sewell of Atlanta, Ga.

In addition to his much-prized stained glass, for the past 10 years Randy has been constructing funky birdhouses. Today his bird-art baseball stadiums, roadside stands and diners, muffler shops, drive-in theaters, fishing stands, and corn dog kiosks have gained quite a following, with orders coming in from art galleries, private collectors, and friends nationwide. According to Randy, the structures are more than art—they are functional and “need



that patina born of weather, time, and bird droppings before reaching full artistic potential.”

His latest design—flying saucers—are of metallic-silver. They are adorned with Russian space program insignia pins for markings and household odds and ends (but apparently come with no guarantees against the hot summer sun).

Priced from \$125 to \$600, plus shipping, each birdhouse

is signed and numbered and comes with a small display base.

Randy can be contacted at Sewell Stained Glass, 38 Muscogee Ave., Atlanta, GA 30305. ♦

### Spotlight, from page 7

meteorites [sic] one night and they just—boom—hit me and left no signs of inflammation, no scars, no open wounds, no anything.’ So that’s real curious to us... And it to us makes it more interesting because we’re still not saying they’re implants, we don’t know what they are. All we’re saying is how do we get meteorites inside these people who allege human-alien abductions? [laughing] This sort of thing....

“We have applied and been accepted to write a scientific paper on these objects at Stanford and MIT. And it’s peer reviewed, so it’s going to be real tough getting through that. And that’s fine, because we feel if our evidence cannot stand medical and scientific scrutiny or anyone else’s, then you’re blowing smoke in people’s face. It must stand medical and scientific scrutiny, and if it can’t pass that, then we’re out of business. And that’s just exactly where I’m at... [If Derrel is referring to the peer-reviewed Journal of Scientific Exploration, the official publication of the Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE), whose president is Stanford astrophysicist Peter Sturrock, PhD, he may be confused. Not only are the society and journal not associated with Stanford or MIT other than the use of the Stanford University address), but Marsha Sims [no relation], the journal’s assistant editor, reported to me (10/26) that the SSE has made no such offer to Derrel or Roger Leir. If Derrel is referring to some other peer-reviewed journal, why doesn’t he name it? Editor’s note: Writers cannot claim to have been “accepted” by a peer-reviewed journal until they have passed the peer review process. For this reason, claiming to have been “accepted to write a paper” for a peer-reviewed journal is contradictory and thus meaningless.

Do we have any evidence that indicates the alien autopsy is true? First of all, I’ll tell you right up front, I am privy to much more information than what’s on TV.

I have a pretty good line on who the photographer is. We’ve been busy. I used to be a private investigator and a senior military police officer and spent two years in the Central Intelligence Agency in the Viet Nam War. So we use all kinds of skills to get whatever we need to, too. I can’t prove that that autopsy is in fact real. I don’t know that. But I’ll give you a good safe opinion about any evidence you ever hear about: Never draw conclusions until all the evidence is in....

[In response to an inaudible question]: “We get these reports from time to time. There is no evidence to date of that although I have a lady who is one of the few people I’ve ever heard of, and she has given me evidence. She’s in the medical field, a nurse. She woke up one morning with a hole in her navel, and she said ‘I’ve been to a hypnotherapist, and we can’t get the information. It’s blocked, and we don’t know what to do, I’m really upset over this.’ She said, ‘I ended up with semen all over my navel. And my husband didn’t do it. And I’m real upset about that. And we got a divorce over it because I told him he must have done that.’ She said, ‘Then I got pregnant, and I actually had the child.’ She said, ‘When he was born, he looked more like a grasshopper than a human, to me.’ And I said, ‘What does he look like now?’ And she says, ‘He’s fine.’ [But does he still look like a grasshopper?] And I say, ‘Is he grown?’ ‘Yes.’ I say, [Is there] ‘any way he would submit to some genetic test?’ She said, ‘Yes, I think he would.’ And we did get the rest of her information and found out exactly what happened to her. And the surgical instrument used to impregnate her. If in fact that’s what happened. So we’re real excited about that.

“...Okay, we’re going to cut off here. Those of you who want to look at some of the alleged objects, you can come up here and look at them....” [Alleged objects?!] ♦

## HOUSTON SKY

No. 11, Jun.-Oct. 1996

*Houston Sky* is published as a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information for Houston-area MUFON members and others. Because views within the UFO community are so varied, the opinions and observations expressed in *HS* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff or of other MUFON members.

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103 Oldtowne Rd.  
Seguin, Texas 78155-4099

**MUFON UFO Hotline:**  
(800) UFO-2166

**HS Editor:** Gayle Nesom  
*MUFON Assistant State Director*  
Harris Co./Southeast Texas  
(713) 772-0222 (phone/fax)  
HoustonSky@aol.com

**Contributor:** Rebecca Schatte  
HoustonSky@aol.com  
**Columnist:** Bill Eatwell  
Beatwell@aol.com

Houston Sky  
PO Box 1718  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

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## 27 Early Sci-Fi Movies

by Gayle Nesom and Rebecca Schatte

The UFO phenomenon as we know it was undoubtedly influenced by the pop culture of earlier decades. Certainly, the technological breakthroughs, space travel, Second World War, Cold War paranoia, and atomic bomb scare contributed to making Americans curious—and nervous—about the future of this planet and the possible existence of beings from other worlds. Early science fiction stories and movies fed, flamed, and exploited these feelings—and provided great entertainment! The titles below (some mentioned in Kevin Randle's article) include the best-known so-called "B" sci-fi films of Hollywood. Many are available on video or can be seen on cable and late-night TV. Enjoy them best with popcorn and friends.

**1902 "A Trip to the Moon"** (silent, French) Primitive but pioneering special effects; based on Verne's 1865 *From the Earth to the Moon* and Wells' 1901 *First Men in the Moon*.

**1909 "The Airship Destroyers"** (silent) One of the first UFOs depicted on film.

**1928 "Woman on the Moon"** (silent, German) Featured a rocket "so authentic" that the film had to be destroyed out of fear that foreign spies might use it.

**1948 "Bruce Conrad—Daredevil of the Skies"** Matinee serial: Hostile flying disks and demented scientists who exploit them to wreck the Panama Canal.

**1951 "The Day the Earth Stood Still"** Aliens warn humankind to use atomic power for peaceful purposes only, and that it is humans who threaten peace in the universe.

**1951 "The Thing"** Using an electric blanket, an arctic team thaws out a deadly alien.

**1951 "Man From Planet X"** Aliens are portrayed as weak and vulnerable rather than menacing.

**1953 "It Came From Outer Space"** (3-D) A UFO lands in the Arizona desert; aliens make the locals help repair their ship; based on Ray Bradbury's "The Meteor."

**1953 "Invaders From Mars"** (3-D) (remade in 1986) Tiny probes (implants) are pushed into the backs of humans' necks as monitors.

**1953 "War of the Worlds"** Invading Martians rebuke the efforts of humans trying to befriend them.

**1953 "The Blob"** Man played by Steve McQueen tries to save a small town from a giant Jell-O mold from space.

**1954 "Killers From Space"** (cheapie) A scientist abducted from his jet as it crashes returns confused and missing time; he remembers what has happened only after regression with sodium amytal.

**1954 "Stranger From Venus"** Low budget and really bad—Venusians are here to help humankind!

**1955 "This Island Earth"** Aliens abduct scientists to

enlist their help in saving their planet from enemies.

**1956 "Not of This Earth"** (remade 1994) The alien collects human blood and sends humans to his world, where a plague is destroying the population.

**1956 "Invasion of the Body Snatchers"** Small-town residents get replaced by ETs as parasitic aliens take over living human flesh.

**1956 "Forbidden Planet"** Human castaways on Altair-4 discover underground storage chambers that hold the knowledge of an extinct alien race.

**1956 "Earth Versus the Flying Saucers"** An army general is abducted, his mind probed, and his thoughts removed for storage.

**1956 "It Conquered the World"** Alien implants delivered by "flying flapjacks" render their recipients part of the invading force.

**1957 "Invasion of the Saucer Men"** Small aliens are featured, some with large heads and eyes and large pointed ears.

**1957 "The 27th Day"** Five people are abducted onto an alien spaceship, where time slows to a standstill.

**1958 "The Blob"** (remade in 1989) An alien creature changes shapes at will.

**1959 "Plan 9 From Outer Space"** Awful movie about alien grave robbers.

**1960 "Village of the Damned"** Women are impregnated by aliens on one day, when everyone in the town is rendered unconscious; later, they give birth to hybrid babies.

**1963 "The Day of the Triffids"** Earth is invaded by outer-space spores that arrive in a meteorite storm.

**1964 "First Men in the Moon"** (British) Special effects enliven Victorian-era expedition to the moon; based on H. G. Wells' 1901 story.

**1960s "The Invaders"** (ABC TV series) Beings from a dying world attempt to take over Earth and make it theirs.

## Of Interest

### Houston, Texas

#### VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

Thursday, November 14, 6-8:30 PM  
Freeman Memorial Library  
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City

#### HUFON (Houston UFO Network)

First Friday of the Month, 7 PM  
Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza  
Houston, Texas  
(713) 597-2834

#### Martian Meteor Exhibit

Burke Baker Planetarium, Houston,  
at the Museum of Natural Science.  
Exhibit of modern astronomy and  
exploration of Mars: recent renovation includes interactive computer kiosks with space themes, custom artwork, photographs, and objects that originated in outer space, including a meteorite knocked from Mars millions of years ago.  
Monday-Saturday, 9 AM-6 PM  
Sunday, 11 AM-6 PM  
Adults: \$3, children 3-11: \$2

### Elsewhere

#### Austin MUFON Experiencers' Support Group

Second Sunday of every month  
Austin History Ctr., 810 Guadalupe  
Austin, Texas  
(512) 326-9381

#### MUFON UFO Hotline (800) UFO-2166

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

—Margaret Mead

HOUSTON SKY  
PO Box 1718  
Bellaire, TX 77402



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